

REMARKS

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action of December 11, 2007, in the above-referenced patent application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application.

Status of Claims

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14 and 44-47 are pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claims 14 and 44-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant notes with appreciation that the previously filed arguments are persuasive to overcome prior art cited in the previous Office Action, and that Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-13 are allowed.

Claim Amendments

By way of this reply, independent claim 14 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 44-47 have been additionally amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection. Applicant has amended claim 14 as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 44-47 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. Applicant has amended claims 44-47 as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections for claim 14 and 44-47 are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 1, 3-8 and 10-13 are allowed. Applicant further notes with appreciation that claims 14 and 44-47 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. As asserted above, Applicant has amended claims 14 and 44-47 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections, and are therefore, now placed in allowable condition.

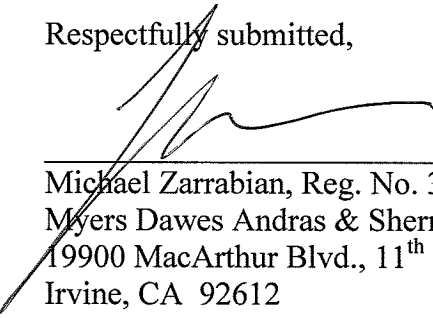
Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1, 3-8, 10-14 and 44-47, as they now stand, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1, 3-8, 10-14 and 44-47 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,



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